BLACKROD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1911.

J. W. UNSWORTH, M.O.H.

Horwich Publishing Co.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE,

BLACKROD, Near CHORLEY.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

For 1911.

To the Chairman and Members of the Blackrod District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my annual report upon the health and sanitary condition of your district for the year 1911, together with the usual analyses of births, deaths, infectious diseases, etc., in Tables I. to V.

BIRTH-RATE.—During 1911 104 births have been registered (58 boys and 46 girls), showing a rate of 26.6 per 1,000 of population. The average for the past 5 years is 108.6, rate 27.15, so that we are still below this average, but the number of births and rate for this year show a welcome increase on last, viz., 95 births, with a rate of 23.75.

DEATH-RATE.—The number of deaths registered in the district during the year is 46, with a rate of 11.8. Nine deaths, however, belonging to the district, occurred in institutions outside, and one

death registered in Blackrod belongs to an adjoining township; so that this leaves the total number of deaths belonging to us as 54, with a rate of 13.8. This is not so low as last year's, which was 10.5, but that was exceptionally low. The average number of deaths for past 5 years is 50.8, with rate 12.7, which shows that we are slightly above this average. We have 16 deaths under one year of age out of 104 births, which does not compare favourably with last year, when we had only 7. This year's is the largest number of deaths under one year since 1906, when we had 17 out of 122 births. We have 9 deaths over 65 years of age, 16 between 45 and 65, 5 between 25 and 45, and 8 between the ages of 1 and 25.

The causes of death I tabulate as follows:—

Zymotic Diseases....	Enteric ...	3
	Diarrhœa ...	5
	Measles ...	2
	Whooping Cough	2
	Influenza ...	1
	Phthisis ...	2
Non-Tuberculous Diseases of Lungs	Bronchitis ...	3
	Pneumonia ...	3
	Cancer ...	2
	Appendicitis	1
	Congenital Debility	3
	Accidental Death	1
	Other defined diseases	26
	Total ...	54

Here we see that Zymotic disease accounts for the largest number of deaths, viz., 12, which number is unusually large, being swelled by the addition of 5 deaths from diarrhœa, on account of the severe epidemic which raged during last summer. Non-tuberculous diseases of lungs comes next, with 6 deaths. We have only 2 deaths from Phthisis, as against 3 in 1910.

Infantile Mortality.—The deaths under one year of age number 16 out of 104 births, equal to a rate of 153.84 per 1,000 births. This compares unfavourably with 7 deaths out of 95 births in 1910.

The causes of death are as follows:—

Diarrhœa	5
Congenital Debility	1
Premature Birth	2
Meningitis	1
Convulsions	3
Gastritis	1
Pneumonia	3
Total	16

We see that we have 5 deaths from Diarrhœa, as against 2 in 1910; but this only partly explains the increase in number of deaths under one year.

Zymotic Death-rate.—We have 12 deaths from Zymotic disease, viz., 3 from Enteric, 5 from Diarrhœa, 2 from Measles, and 2 from Whooping Cough. This gives us a rate of 3.08, which again compares unfavourably with 1910, when we had only 3 deaths, with a rate of .75. The intense heat and drought of last summer, in my opinion, partly accounts for this increase.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—During the year 16 cases of infectious disease have been notified, viz., Enteric 9 cases, Scarlet Fever 3, Erysipelas 3, and Diphtheria 1. This number compares favourably with 24 cases in 1910, though 9 cases of Enteric is an unusually large number. This minor epidemic followed the long continued heat and drought of last summer, and was, I believe, indirectly caused thereby. Typhoid was prevalent at that time in most of the surrounding districts, but we suffered less than some of our neighbours. The epidemic could not be traced either to milk or water supply; neither could one case be distinctly traced to another. The cases were spread over a large area, and

in no instance had we more than one case in a house. Seven of these cases we treated in hospital, and every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease by disinfecting houses, flushing drains, and giving instructions to the inhabitants for their protection. We have only had three cases of Scarlet Fever, two in January, which were the tail-end of an epidemic at the end of 1910, and one case in December. Only an isolated case of Diphtheria was notified, which was treated in hospital.

In 1902—65	cases	of	infectious disease.
,, 1903—82	,,		,,
,, 1904—79	,,		,,
,, 1905—19	,,		,,
,, 1906—17	,,		,,
,, 1907—28	,,		,,
,, 1908—12	,,		,,
,, 1909—38	,,		,,
,, 1910—24	,,		,,
,, 1911—16	,,		,,

Average for past 10 years is 38.

Sanitary Condition of District.—This is fairly satisfactory, and generally in accordance with existing bye-laws.

Twenty-nine notices have been served to abate nuisances, as follows:—

Deposit of Offensive Matter	4
Insanitary Back-yards	4
Blocked Drains	9
Unsatisfactory Drainage	4
Insanitary Cellar	1
Dirty House	1
Defective Slop-pipes	2
Overcrowding	2
Smoke Nuisance	2
Total	29

Also, 53 notices have been served to convert existing privies, or erect new fresh water closets. The above nuisances have been, or are being, attended to, and by the end of the present year I hope to be able to report the erection of a number of new fresh water closets, and a large number of conversions of existing privies. 39 conversions of privy closets have taken place in 1911, and a fairly large number are under order. Several additional water closets have been erected. The ashpits in almost every case have been dispensed with, and sanitary dust bins provided. There are now in the township 854 houses, 370 ashpits, 73 sanitary bins, 534 privy closets, 155 flush water closets, 38 waste water closets, and 23 pails. The scavenging has been efficiently carried out by the Council. Five new houses have been erected, and 8 demolished, 3 voluntarily and 5 after notice to repair. Under the Housing Act, 187 houses have been inspected, and the cubical contents taken. The result of the notices sent out by the Council is that 5 have been demolished, 20 attended to as required, 10 partly finished, whilst 61 are, according to letters received from the owners, in the hands of the contractors to do necessary repairs.

Sewage.—The Sewage Works and Irrigation Lands have been inspected regularly, and the treatment of sewage is very satisfactory.

Water Supply.—This is excellent in character, and in spite of the long and continued drought of last summer, has been sufficient for all purposes during the year. During the whole period of drought the district had a continuous supply of water.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These have been periodically inspected, and are now satisfactory as regards air space and cleanliness.

Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses.—We have no public bakehouses or slaughter-houses in the district, but the private ones have been periodically inspected, and are satisfactory.

Workshops.—These are all in good condition, well ventilated, and generally satisfactory.

Lodging Houses and Obnoxious Trades.—No ordinary lodging houses in the district, and no obnoxious trades carried on.

Food Supply, &c.—Satisfactory throughout the year.

General Health.—This, though not so good as last year, has been generally satisfactory. There is again a diminution in infectious disease, as before mentioned.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. W. UNSWORTH, M.O.H.

TABLE 1.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1911, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Year	Population, estimated to middle of each Year	BIRTHS. Un. corrected Number	BIRTHS. Nett Number	BIRTHS. Rate	Total Deaths Registered in the District Number	Total Deaths Registered in the District Rate	Transferable Deaths of Non-residents registered in the District	Transferable Deaths of Residents not regist'd in the District	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 year of age. Number	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 year of age. Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. At all ages Number	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. At all ages Rate
1906 ...	4,000	...	122	30·5	...	...	...	...	17	139·23	52	13
1907 ...	4,000	...	103	25·75	...	...	...	...	11	106·79	50	12·5
1908 ...	4,000	...	116	29·	...	...	...	. .	13	112·06	60	15
1909 ...	4,000	...	107	26·75	...	...	...	. .	13	121·49	55	13·75
1910 ...	4,000	...	95	23·75	...	...	...	...	7	73·6	42	10·5
1911 ...	3,896	103	104	26·6	46	11·8	1	9	16	153 84	54	13·8

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 2,388.

Total of population at all ages, 3,896. Number of inhabited houses, 854. Average No. of persons per house, 4·5. (At Census, 1911).

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1911.

BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.							Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Diphtheria ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas ..	3	1	...	1	...	...	2	...
Scarlet fever ...	3	...	3	1	...	...	...	3
Enteric fever ...	9	...	3	...	4	2	...	7
Totals ...	16	1	5	2	4	2	2	11

Isolation Hospital (Joint), Fall Birch, Horwich.

Total available Beds, 5. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1911

BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole district at subjoined ages.								Total Deaths in Institutions in the District
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	
Enteric Fever ...	3	..	...	1	...	1	1	...	Nil. No Institutions in the district.
Measles	2	...	1	..	1	...	...	...	
Whooping Cough ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	
Bronchitis ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	
Pneumonia ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diarrhœa	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Appendicitis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Violent Deaths, excluding suicides..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Other Defined Disea's	26	5	1	1	...	1	11	7	
	54	16	2	5	1	5	16	9	

TABLE IV. INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under one Year
All Causes:—								
Certified	3	1	4	1	4	3	2	16
Uncertified	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	
Diarrhœa	..	1	1	...	2	...	2	5
Congenital Malformations (*c*) ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*) ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions	2	...	2	...	...	1	...	3
Gastritis	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	3
	5	1	6	1	4	3	2	16

Nett Births in the year, legitimate, 99; illegitimate, 5.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 15; illegitimate infants, 1.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1911,

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BLACKROD.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspections.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	6
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	20
Total	26

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.—None.

3.—HOME WORK.—None.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

	Number.
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year	
Huyton Bleachworks	1
Woods' Colliery	1
Blackrod Weaving Shed	1
Arley Brick Co.	1
Cloggers	2
Shoemakers	1
Blacksmiths	1
Total number of workshops on Register ...	8

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—None.